

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 /099 W
-----096415 151314Z /46

R 150910Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6777
INFO COMIDEASTFOR
USS VREELAND
USCINCEIR VAIHINGEN GER
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
ADMIN COMIDEASTFOR
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1879

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, SO, US
SUBJ: ADDITIONAL PRESS GUIDANCE FOR VREELAND VISIT

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 1788 DTG 070800Z AUG 78
B) MOGADISCIO 1794 DTG 080530Z AUG 78
C) STATE 187521 DTG 252014Z JUL 78 (NOTAL)

1. IN ADDITION TO OUR COMMENTS ON Q AND A'S CONTAINED
REFTEL, WE WISH TO FLAG QUESTIONS WE BELIEVE ARE BOUND TO
BE RAISED BY PRESS CORPS IN U.S. (AND POSSIBLY IN MOGADISCIO,
IF WESTERN JOURNALISTS GET WIND OF VISIT AND SOMALIS GRANT
THEM VISAS TO COME HERE.) SUGGESTED Q AND A'S FOLLOW:

1. IS SHIP VISIT INTENDED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR A DOD SURVEY
TEAM VISITING SOMALIA?

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A. THESE ARE TWO SEPARATE QUESTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF
SOMALIA INVITED US TO RESUME A PRACTICE, INTERRUPTED
IN 19?? (REQUEST DATE BE SUPPLIED), OF U.S. NAVY SHIP
VISITS TO SOMALI PORTS. WE ACCEPTED THE SOMALI
INVITATION AND THE VREELAND WILL CALL AT MOGADISCIO
AUGUST 26-28.

Q. YOU SAID SOMALI PORTS. ARE OTHER SHIP VISITS PLANNED OR CONTEMPLATED? AT BERBERA, FOR INSTANCE?

A. IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO COMMENT IN ADVANCE ON WHERE OR WHEN U.S. NAVAL VESSELS WILL PUT INTO PORT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE DOD SURVEY TEAM? WHAT IS THE STATUS ON THAT? HAS THE IDEA OF SENDING A SURVEY TEAM TO MOGADISCIO BEEN SHELVED?

A. WE ARE STILL DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REVIEW GUIDANCE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA CONTAINED REFTEL C. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IT STANDS UP WELL. HOWEVER, REFTEL B WAS NOT SENT TO THE VREELAND. RECOMMEND GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT BE INCORPORATED IN OVERALL PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE VREELAND VISIT, WHICH WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT IS COORDINATING AND WILL SEND TO US IN TIMELY FASHION. VOUGHT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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